faith in JESUS CHRIST, repentance unto life for sin, and evangelical holiness of heart, life, and conversation; such a one may flourish in the world respecting his circumstances and fortune, and yet be nothing more than a mere moralist, or like the barren fig-tree*.

The real christian, dead to the follies and vanities of the world, but alive in CHRIST,

Does in his thoughts (as trees shoot upward) rise
Above the region of these lower skies;
And wafted swift on contemplation's wings,
Soars with the lark, and as he mounts, he sings. RURAL CHRISTIAN.

The

* Matthew xxi. 19.

The benign influences of JESUS, the Son of Righteousness, shining on his soul (as the natural sun animates and enlivens universal nature) fill him with divine love, remove every discouraging fear, brighten his hope, and excite his grateful praise; temptations may, like briars and thorns, lay hold on, and sometimes scratch him as he is passing thro' this wilderness world, but sincere repentance will ever heal these wounds, and daily circumspection (with a divine blessing) yield an effectual cure; seeing the many dangers, enemies, snares, and temptations he is ever surrounded with and exposed to, there surely is sufficient rea-

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